(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHIR C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) There is no airport/airstrip available at Jalpaiguri. However, the needs of the air traffic are being met by the Bangdogra airport which is nearest to Japaiguri.

Running of Rajdhani Express with less number of Passengers

2885. SHRI MEHBOOB ZAHEDI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that 2309/2310 Rajdhani Express in running with less number of passengers;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that there are less number of passengers on Lucknow-New Delhi Route;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government are aware of the demand of people for running the Patna passenger train *via* Mugal Sarai-Allahabad instead of Varanasi-Lucknow;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Government are also considering the demand to run this train from Patna on Thursday and Sunday and from New Delhi on Monday and Friday;

(g) if so, the steps taken by the Government to fulfil this demand; and

(h) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) The occupation of the 2309/2310 Patna-New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express trains in different classes on both directions ranges from 50% to 70%. The utilisation of quota allotted to Lucknow by 2309 Patna-New Delhi Rajdhani Express in AC 2-tier & AC 3-tier is 62.5% and 53%, respectively.

(d) and (e) Some representations have been received for running of 2309/2310 New Delhi-Patna Rajdhani Express *via* Allahabad-Mugalsarai.

(f) There is no such proposal at present.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) Due to operational constraints. Moreover, Rajdhani service is available from Patna on Thursdays and Sundays and from New Delhi for Patna on Mondays and Fridays.

Construction of Foot Overbridge at Bandel Railway Station

2886. SHRI RUP CHAND PAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any progress has been made in respect of construction of foot over-bridge connecting all platforms of Bandel Railways Station under Howrah Division of Eastern Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) There is no proposal for construction of a foot over bridge at Bandel station at present.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Maintenance Facility

2887. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide maintenance facility for air-brake and air conditioning coaches at Guwahati and New Jalpaiguri Railway stations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) At present, Guwahati coaching Depot has been provided with maintenance facilities for air brake and air conditioning, coaching stock. New Jalpaiguri Coaching Depot facilities will be modified in the near future.

Opening of STD/ISD Booth at Howrah Railway Station

2888. DR. ASIM BALA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to open a STD/ ISD Booth on platform No.9 at Howrah Railway station;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay to open such a booth at this platform; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to open this booth at an early date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.